

OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

GOVERNMENT INNOVATION RECOGNITION

The State of Alaska should annually publicize the opportunity for state, local, and tribal entities to apply for recognition for noteworthy innovations in government and provide recognition for award-winning programs.

YOUTH VOTER CORPS

Institute a Youth Voter Corps to meaningfully involve secondary students in the election process, to raise awareness of and interest in voting, and to encourage responsible citizenship.

STUDENT EMPOWERMENT

Create an annual Lieutenant Governor's Youth Issues Summit to involve high school students in a yearly discussion of important state issues from the perspective of youth.

Include students on boards and commissions and give them a voice and vote in the decision-making process.

Provide grant programs and other incentives for implementing student ideas and community projects.

CIVIC INFORMATION

Develop and distribute tips for "How to Be a Good Citizen."

Make the information available for newly licensed drivers.

RECOGNITION FOR CIVIC INVOLVEMENT

Develop an annual recognition award for students, teachers, and schools significantly involved in the civic life of their community or state.

For the full text of the Alaska Democracy Project Action Plan, go to www.gov.state.ak.us/lrgov/adp/ or contact the Office of the Lieutenant Governor.

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Task Force

TASK FORCE MEMBERS

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Mary Bristol—Anchorage School District

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Alma Elia—St. Mary's School District

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www.gov.state.ak.us/lrgov/adp/



Alaska Democracy Project

Citizens for a New Millennium

Recommended Actions

www.gov.state.ak.us/lrgov/adp/

Goals

The goals of the Alaska Democracy Project are to expand and improve civics education in K-12 and to increase youth participation in programs and experiences that will deepen their interest in and understanding of citizenship.



Lt. Governor Fran Ulmer initiated the Alaska Democracy Project as a follow up to the successful initiative, *Let's Vote! Alaska: New Voters for a New Millennium*. This effort helped to increase youth voter turnout by in Alaska 48 percent during the 2000 General Election. The Alaska Democracy Project was designed to continue the momentum of *Let's Vote! Alaska* and to help young people develop the knowledge and skills needed to be active citizens. Lieutenant Governor appointed a task force to lead the effort on July 1, 2001.

Recommended Actions

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

The actions recommended by the Alaska Democracy Project Task Force are intended to complement and enhance a sustained and systematic K-12 standards-based civics and government curriculum. They are divided into two categories; those to be implemented in the classroom, and those that take place outside of the classroom although the categorization is not mutually exclusive.

The complete Alaska Democracy Project Action Plan including suggestions for implementation lists of contacts with the expertise to provide the leadership to implement the recommendations, and background information is located on line at www.gov.state.ak.us/litgov/adp and is available from the Office of the Lieutenant Governor Fran Ulmer.



IN THE CLASSROOM

DEMOCRACY IN THE CLASSROOM AND SCHOOL

Encourage all teachers and administrators to evaluate the democratic climate of their classroom and school.

ALASKA HISTORY/ALASKA STUDIES

Require high school students to study Alaska History/Alaska Studies that includes a local and state government component and is aligned with Alaska standards for civics/government.

CURRENT EVENTS IN THE CLASSROOM

Ensure that awareness, study, and discussion of current events are part of the curriculum.

EXPERIENTIAL CIVICS PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

As part of comprehensive civics education, encourage and/or require students to participate in experiential civics programs such as Alaska Close-Up, Project Citizen, Kids

Voting or other programs and activities such as mock trials and legislative simulations that actively involve them in the learning process.

LITERACY AND CIVICS

Connect civics education to basic literacy instruction by ensuring that reading, writing, and math incorporate civics/government content.

SERVICE LEARNING

Encourage districts to develop local policies that include expectations for student engagement in service learning.

Encourage student service on local and state committees, boards, and commissions.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT

Ensure that students exercise responsibility for decision making by conducting classroom elections and participating in the governance of their class and school.

ALASKA DEMOCRACY PROJECT CIVICS WEB SITE

Maintain a civics education site for students and teachers that is a "one-stop" site for civics resources, opportunities, and activities. The site should also include a checklist for evaluating the democratic climate of a classroom/school, as well as a matrix of elementary and secondary civics programs.

ALASKA DEMOCRACY WEEK

Celebrate Alaska Democracy Week annually around Alaska Day.

PUBLIC SERVICE

Promote public service, in all of its forms (elected, appointed, and classified), as a career option.



CIVICS EDUCATION

PRE-SERVICE/IN-SERVICE COURSES

Ensure that civics content, teaching methods, programs, and resources are included in the pre-service and in-service education of all K-12 teachers.

Ensure that awareness courses and materials related to public service careers are made available during pre-service and in-service courses for counselors.